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Andt. B

PATENT

Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 6530.0145-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

VINCENT TURTURRO et al.

Serial No.: 09/977,289

Filed: October 16, 2001

For: BIOPSY INSTRUMENT HAVING
IRRIGATION AND ASPIRATION
CAPABILITIES

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

) Group Art Unit: 3736

) Examiner: To Be Assigned

TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

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AUG 15 2002

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace the paragraph starting on page 28 and ending on page 29 with the following two paragraphs:

B 1
In use, it will be appreciated that the distal end of the endoscope to which the collar 80 is coupled is maneuvered adjacent the desired tissue for sampling and the distal assembly is brought into contact with tissue 110 (Figs. 10 and 11). The actuation handle 12 is actuated to close the jaws 88, 90 and cut off a tissue sample 112. When the jaws 88, 90 are in a closed position the irrigation means and the aspiration means are activated and the first proximal irrigation coupling tube and the first